



3 Theme

In light of God's divine plan for the church, believers must ask **God the Father** for the **Holy Spirit's power** to grow in **Christ-likeness**.

Ephesians 3:14

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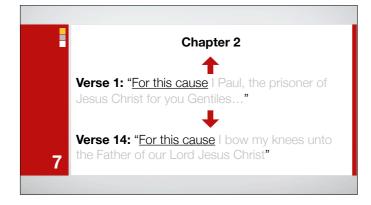
For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ

For this reason I bow my knees before the Father (ESV)

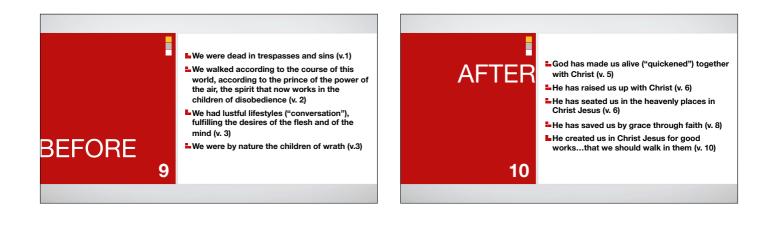
 "Mystery" = Something that had been previously hidden, but is now revealed.
 Ephesians 3:1

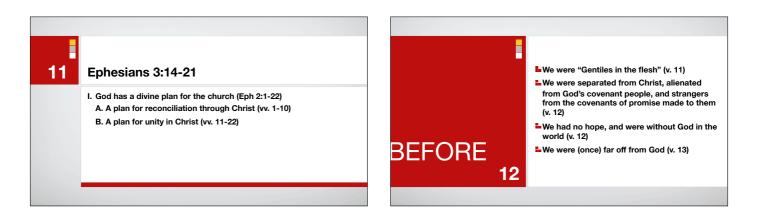
 For this cause I Paul, the prisoner of Jesus Christ for you Gentiles...

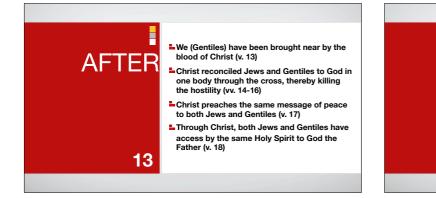
 For this reason I, Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus on behalf of you Gentiles... (ESV)



8 Ephesians 3:14-21 1. God has a divine plan for the church (Eph 2:1-22) A. A plan for reconciliation through Christ (vv. 1-10)



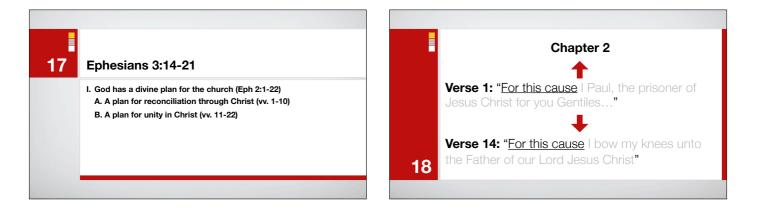


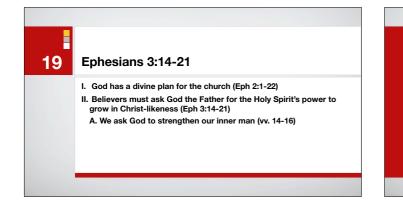


AFTER I Gentiles are no longer strangers and foreigners - we are fellow citizens with the saints, and members of the same household of God! (v. 19) The church, as a corporate body, is being built as the temple of God! (vv. 20-22)

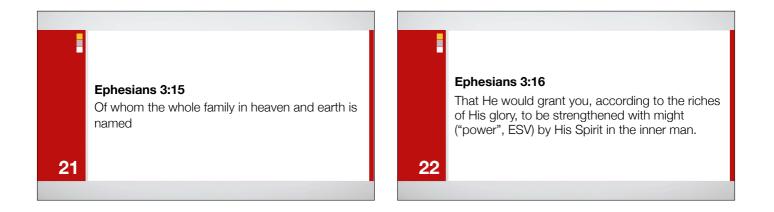
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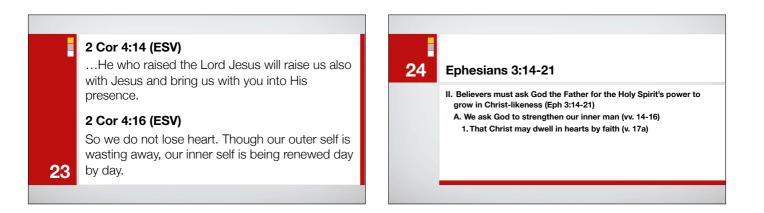






Ephesians 3:14 For this cause ("For this reason", ESV) I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ "bow my knees" = prayer



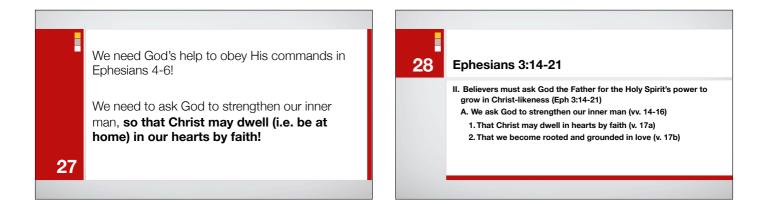


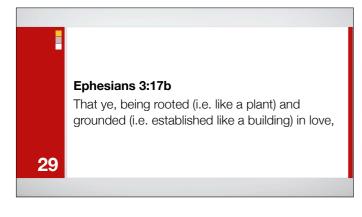


After we trust Christ, our hearts need massive renovations!

Renovation "to-do" list can be found in Ephesians 4-6!

26







Matthew 22:37-40

Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. **On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.**



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Ephesians 3:14-21

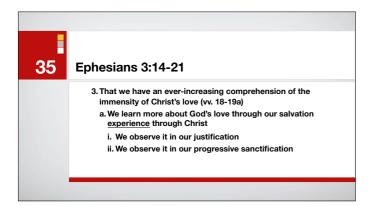
II. Believers must ask God the Father for the Holy Spirit's power to grow in Christ-likeness (Eph 3:14-21)

- A. We ask God to strengthen our inner man (vv. 14-16)
- 1. That Christ may dwell in hearts by faith (v. 17a)
- 2. That we become rooted and grounded in love (v. 17b)
- 3. That we have an ever-increasing comprehension of the immensity of Christ's love (vv. 18-19a)

Ephesians 3:18-19a

May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; and to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge...

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Romans 6:6 (ESV)

We know that our old self was crucified with Him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin.

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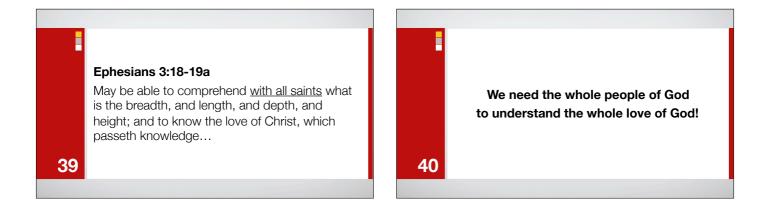
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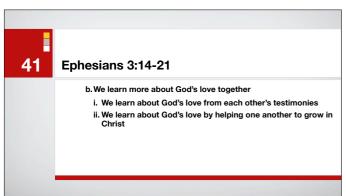
God loves us so much, He didn't just save us from hell, **He also rescued us from being slaves to our sinful desires!**

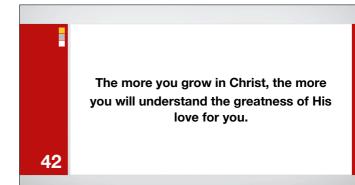
The more you grow in Christ, the more you will understand the greatness of His love for you.

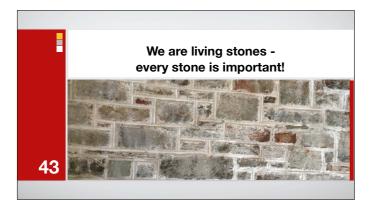
38 Ephesians 3:14-21

- 3. That we have an ever-increasing comprehension of the immensity of Christ's love (vv. 18-19a)
 - a. We learn more about God's love through our salvation experience through Christ
 - i. We observe it in our justification
 - ii. We observe it in our progressive sanctification
- b. We learn more about God's love together



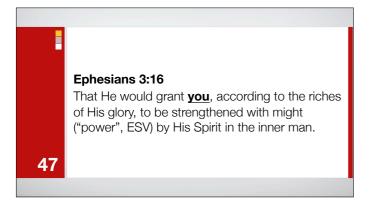


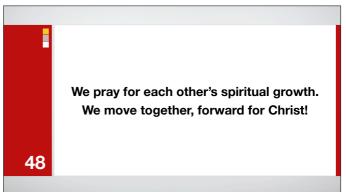












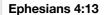


A. We ask God to strengthen our inner man (vv. 14-16)

- 1. That Christ may dwell in hearts by faith (v. 17a)
- 2. That we become rooted and grounded in love (v. 17b) 3. That we have an ever-increasing comprehension of the
 - immensity of Christ's love (vv. 18-19a)
- 4. That we are filled with all the fullness of God (v. 19b)

Ephesians 4:11-13 (ESV)

And [God] gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the <u>fullness of</u> <u>Christ</u>



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...to mature manhood (i.e. full spiritual maturity), to the measure of the stature of the <u>fullness of</u> <u>Christ</u>

The standard of spiritual maturity is full Christ-likeness!

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Ephesians 3:14-21

- A. We ask God to strengthen our inner man (vv. 14-16)
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- 2. That we become rooted and grounded in love (v. 17b)
 3. That we have an ever-increasing comprehension of the immensity of Christ's love (vv. 18-19a)
- 4. That we are filled with all the fullness of God (v. 19b)
- B. God is able is do far above all that we can ask or think (vv. 20-21)

